

I was very surprised and upset to learn of Sinclair Broadcasting's plan to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary, as I was reading my morning paper on Wednesday October 13th. This is apparently to occur just days before the election. I had no idea that something like this would be acceptable to anyone in the media. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.